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# Ex-CIA agent t gun-running o

## Bragged to N.Y. cops of murder, torture and global skulduggery

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Frank Terpil, ex-CIA agent turned international outlaw, was at his outrageous best during the 1979 Christmas season as he told hair-raising "war" stories to two Latin-American revolutionaries holed up in the New York Hilton Hotel.

What Terpil didn't know was that the "revolutionaries" were undercover New York City policemen and Room 2327 was wired. Besides capturing on tape Terpil's bizarre tales of murder and torture, the police had recorded his acceptance of a \$56,000 down payment in a deal which would bring him \$2 million for illegally delivering 10,000 machine guns to the revolutionaries.

When the undercover cops' colleagues busted into the room on Dec. 22, Terpil pulled out a silenced-equipped Browning revolver, but quickly surrendered it.

Terpil, 41, spent the holidays in a New York jail. He was still there on Jan. 4, 1980, when Philadelphia police arrested Bradley F. Bryant, 37, and two others at International Airport. A search of Bryant's suite at the Sheraton Airport Inn turned up a small arsenal of semi-automatic weapons and a silencer.

On Jan. 10, Terpil posted \$100,000 bail and walked out of jail. He and his partner, another former CIA agent named Edwin P. Wilson, 52, are now fugitives hiding out in the Middle East.

Bryant, meanwhile, is sitting in an Elgin, Ill., prison awaiting trial on charges of selling \$250,000 worth of marijuana to undercover police last May. He was convicted in federal court in Philadelphia of possession of a silencer, and sentenced to two years in jail. And he faces charges of conducting a gigantic fraud in Savannah, Ga.

In addition, Bryant was indicted last March for allegedly stealing sensitive military equipment from the super-secret China Lake, Calif., Naval Weapons Center during 1978 and 1979. Justice Department sources said that the indictment resulted from an investigation triggered by a Bulletin series about Bryant and his involvement in China Lake.

The series quoted associates of Bryant as saying they believed their removal of equipment from China Lake was part of a CIA-sponsored scheme to acquire a Soviet radar system installed in Libya. The stolen equipment, they said, was to be traded for the radar system.

In all, Bryant could be hit with prison sentences long enough to keep him behind bars until he is a very, very old man.

sentences will persuade Bryant to tell what he knows about his own operations, about security breakdowns at China Lake and about the Wilson-Terpil partnership.

Even before Bryant's China Lake indictment, federal investigators launched an inquiry to determine if Wilson and Terpil used their CIA connections to penetrate the weapons-center in an illegal effort to obtain weaponry and technology to sell to Libya. They have found at least two China Lake employees who took leaves of absence to work for Wilson and Terpil in Libya.

If there is a connection between Bryant and Wilson-Terpil, investigators said, it is probably to be found at China Lake.

So far, Bryant has remained silent.

But federal investigators working out of Philadelphia, Washington, Denver and Fresno, Calif., have mined enough information about Wilson and Terpil to paint a picture of the renegade CIA agents being involved in gun-running, aiding and abetting terrorism, selling American secrets, and general global skulduggery on an unprecedented scale.

Wilson and Terpil were federally indicted on April 23, 1980, for illegally shipping explosives to Libya from Pomona, Calif., and for conspiring to murder a critic of Libya's dictator, Col. Moammar Khadafy.

In addition, Terpil was convicted in absentia in New York state court last May 15 for the attempted sale of machine guns. He was sentenced to 53 years in prison by Justice Thomas Galligan, who characterized men like Terpil this way:

"They have no allegiance to any flag. They prosper in a world at war. Wherever terrorism and torture are, they are."

Terrorism respects no international boundaries, but in the 1970s it took root in the oil-rich and weapons-hungry Middle East. And that is where Wilson and Terpil sold their peculiar talents.

Information obtained from interviews with investigators, a review of public and still-classified documents, and published reports provides this account of the Wilson-Terpil operations:

Wilson became a CIA contract agent — as opposed to a career officer — in 1955. As an agent, Wilson developed friendships with high-level CIA officers. In the late 1960s, he formed Consultants International Inc., a CIA-front operating as an export-import company.

While Consultants International was designed as an intelligence-gathering tool, Wilson actually conducted business through it, selling electronics gear on the world market and making a profit while tending to CIA business. Some CIA personnel moonlighted for Consultants.

Wilson ended his CIA association in 1971 and spent the next year working for Naval Intelligence, although he led friends to believe he was still active in the agency. Some

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